**The effects that the mnemonic device, narrative chaining has in aiding memory.**

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ABSTRACT:

The purpose of this particular experiment was to see if the serial position effect would take place, while also testing if the mnemonic device of narrative chaining would be effective in aiding memory. The experiment does in fact show the expected results that the serial position effect would take place, but narrative chaining did not help in aiding the participants memory because results of group A and group B barely varied at all. Problems that could have occurred in this experiment or influenced the participants results would have been the use of medication, loud atmospheres, distractions, etc. there was an overall of 6 participants chosen at random and all aged between 19- 45 to have a good age range to measure if the memory declines over the lifespan.

INTRODUCTION:

In this experiment of ‘The effects that the mnemonic device, narrative chaining has in aiding memory’ I believe that the serial position effect will take place. The serial position effect suggests that people tend to remember items at the beginning and the end of a list, but not remember the items in the middle of it. People will be chosen at random, both males and females around the town of Lara, all between the ages of 19- 45, I don’t believe that memory decline over the lifespan will show at all. This experiment, and ones similar to it, are being conducted by year 12 psychology students at Lara Secondary College.

METHOD:

Participants were chosen at random, 2 males and 4 females, ranging from ages of 19- 45. Things that may have influenced the participants results are medication issues, loud atmosphere and thinking about other things. Participants were selected at random from around Lara. Few materials were used:

A pen,

Paper,

Word list b &

A clock.

Steps used to complete this experiment were

1. choose a word list of 15 four letter nouns
2. choose a mnemonic device, either narrative chaining or method of loci
3. decide on a number of participants that you will need
4. make consent forms for participants to sign
5. create two groups, group A and group B
6. write down what both groups of participants must do to complete the experiment
7. choose participants from the chosen age group (19- 45), the sex of particpants, etc.
8. inform participants of what they must do to complete the experiment
9. read the wordlist to each participant
10. wait about 1 minute then ask particpants to write down in order the words that they remember
11. go back to particpants 10 minutes after and ask them to write down the words in order of what they remember again, without rereading the wordlist
12. record all results

RESULTS:

Average results of both groups of participants results.

Group A. straight after: 42%

10 minutes after: 27%

Group B. straight after: 42%

10 minutes after: 24%

This graph shows the average results of the participants results, both straight after the wordlist was read to them and 10 minutes later. The results 10 minutes later were very similar to the results taken straight after participants were read the word list. This graph also shows that group A (no mnemonic device) and group B (narrative chaining) results barely varied from one another at all.

There was no evidence of memory decline over the lifespan:

Group A: straight after- 45 year old female- 40%

10 minutes after: 27%

straight after- 32 year old male- 47%

10 minutes after- 33%

straight after- 38 year old female- 40%

10 minutes after- 20%

Group B: straight after- 21 year old female- 53%

10 minutes after- 40%

straight after- 44 year old female- 47%

10 minutes after- 20%

straight after- 19 year old male- 27%

10 minutes after- 13%

these results support the serial position effect, but shows that narrative chaining has no effectiveness in helping to aid an individuals memory.

DISCUSSION:

This experiment did infact back up the hypothesis that the serial position effect would take place in this experiment. Participants remembered items at the beginning and the end of the wordlists, but not the middle. The ages of participants showed no evidence that peoples memory declines over the lifespan. None of the participants remembered many words, this might have been due to some participants taking medication, surrounded by a loud atmosphere, busy with other thoughts (distractions), etc. If someone were to reconstruct this experiment they should read the wordlist and give participants time to think about the words before asking them to repeat the words, especially the participants in group B, the narrative chaining group, aswell as ensuring that their surroundings are not a distraction.

REFERANCES:

Year 12 VCE psychology handout booklet

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Psychology textbook